

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 EB-07 OIC-02 OMB-01

EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-01 /098 W

----- 077994

R 101925Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0064

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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PASS ALSO TO AID/NESA/TECH. FROM PALMER AND REICH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CENTO, OCON, EAID

SUBJECT: 23RD CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

1. ELICITING QUESTION OF HIGH LEVEL MEETING, COMMITTEE TOOK IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS IN WHAT WE DEEM A REALISTIC APPROACH TO MEETING THE REGIONAL MEMBERS' EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR NEW/REFOCUSSED AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SPEEDY TELEPHONIC AUTHORIZATION BY AID/W FOR USDEL TO OFFER SHORT-TERM SERVICES OF PROGRAM OFFICER WAS CRUCIAL TO OUR SUCCESS IN INFLUENCING CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME.

2. ON KEY RESOLUTION "A", COMMITTEE AGREED ON FOLLOWING PROCEDURE: (A) BY JUNE 15, REGIONALS TO SUBMIT PERTINENT ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS, INDICATING APPROPRIATE AREAS FOR CONCENTRATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION UNDER CENTO AUSPICES, AND IF DESIRED, SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN THOSE AREAS; (B) SECRETARIAT, WITH HELP OF EXPERT CONSULTANTS, WILL SCREEN  
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MATERIALS AND SUGGEST AREAS FOR COOPERATION; (C) BY

AUGUST 15, A REPORT, INCLUDING ESTIMATES OF FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS, WILL BE MADE TO GOVERNMENTS, WITH FURTHER STEPS ON IMPLEMENTING RES. "A" TO BE CONSIDERED INITIALLY BY ECONOMIC STEERING GROUP.

3. WE LOBBIED FOR OUR "PROGRAM MANAGEMENT" APPROACH TO RESOLUTION "A" FIRST WITH BRITISH AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITH DEPUTY SYG CRAWFORD AND IRANIANS. THESE ASSISTED US IN SELLING THE GENERAL CONCEPT TO PAKISTANIS AND TURKS. UK AGREED PROVIDE RELATIVELY SENIOR DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST AS HALF OF EXPERT TEAM. TURKS TOOK INITIATIVE IN CONSOLIDATING A CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION ON THE REGIONALS' PART. APPROPRIATELY, THE RECORD SHOWS THE INITIATIVE AS HAVING COME FROM THE REGIONALS, WITH US AND UK RESPONDING POSITIVELY. AT CONFERENCE AND IN CORRIDORS, WE STRESSED NEED FOR CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF MODERN PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES TO CENTO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, THE PARA CONCEPT AND CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES IN KEY SECTORS SUCH AS RURAL POVERTY. UK AND REGIONALS ALSO FAVORED MORE EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. ON RETURN TO ANKARA, CRAWFORD AND REICH WILL CONSIDER MORE SPECIFICALLY WHAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED OF US AND UK CONSULTANTS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT US EXPERT SHOULD BE QUITE SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER WITH EXTENSIVE FIELD EXPERIENCE IN OPERATIONS AS WELL AS PLANNING. THESE TALENTS WILL BE USEFUL WITH REGARD TO MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND AS WELL AS TO GENERAL STOCKTAKING/REORIENTATION EFFORT. CRAWFORD NOTED DEFICIENCY OF STAFF PROGRAMMING ROLE IN MTCF AND PROPOSED SUCH CAPABILITY BE DEVELOPED WITHIN PERMANENT SECRETARIAL STAFF. ALL MEMBERS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS, AND US WAS ASKED TO ASSIST. AID/W THUS SHOULD BEGIN PROCESS OF SELECTING FIRST-RATE CONSULTANT FOR 60-90 TDY COMMENCING APPROXIMATELY JUNE 15.

5. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS ALSO DISPOSED OF HARMONIOUSLY. REALISTIC SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE PERVADED ALL SESSIONS; SOLE IRRITATING ELEMENT BEING PAKISTAN'S REPETITION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUEST THAT US "COMPLETE" CENTO AIRWAYS PROJECT BY PROVIDING TROPOSCATTER LINK. WE BELIEVE CONFERENCE RESULTS SET STAGE FOR A PROCESS WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CONCERNS EVINced BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL DURING RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT, AND TO THE SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN A POSITIVE USG REACTION.

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## Message Attributes

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